(b) whether the Central Government are considering any plan to set up a High Court or its bench in every capital of the States (except Union Territories); if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when a bench of High Court is likely to be set in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh which is the largest State of the country and whether Government would consider this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Itanagar, Gandhinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar are the State capitals in the country where at present there is no High Court or its Bench. It has been decided that a Bench of Gauhati High Court should be set up at Itanagar after necessary infrastructural facilities are provided by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

It is not necessay that the capital of every State should necessarily have a High Court or its Bench. In any case, no complete proposal has been received from the remaining State Governments in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts, for establishing Benches of High Courts in the capitals of the States.

Law Commission's recommendation for banning Meat and Vegetable Exports

175. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Law Commission has urged for banning meat and vegetable export as per the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 12th October, 1999;

(b) if so, the Law Commission's rationale for such a ban; and

(c) what is Government's response to the above?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The Law Commission, in Chapter III of its 159th Report on "Repeal and Amendment of Laws: Part I" has suggested that it would be appropriate that the Government issues notification prohibiting the exports of vegetables, meat (excluding beef) and fruits altogether. They are of the view that such prohibition would ensure availability

of such products at reasonable rates which alone would enable the poorer sections of the society to purchase and consume them. The said Report has been laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 28.10.1999.

(c) The Report has been forwarded to the Ministry of Commerce, being the administrative Ministry concerned, for consideration of the recommendations contained therein.

Law Commission's Suggestion for Five Year term for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

176. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission, in its 170th report has suggested an amendment of the Constitution to provide for a fixed five year term for the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) by when necessary legislation is likely to be brought in Parliament; and

(d) whether the new points of the main political parties and the Election Commission in the matter would be ascertained in the first instance, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The issue being sensitive, will require deliberations/ consultations with political parties, Election Commission and other experts. No time-frame in this respect can be predicted.

Introduction of Competition Law

177. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to introduce a competition law to regulate mergers and acquisitions in the consumers' interest; and

(b) if not, what is the plan of Government to save the interest of the consumers?